

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (New) A defense system, comprising:

a cupola having a circular seat for rotating about a central axis, said circular seat having a lateral wall whose height is less than half its external diameter;

a launcher comprising at least two projectile launch tubes, said projectile launch tubes being aligned parallel to each other, said projectile launch tubes each having a length substantially equal to the diameter of said circular seat, said projectile launch tubes being positioned next to each other, an end of said launcher being pivotally attached to said cupola, wherein said launcher is articulated in elevation with respect to said circular seat around trunnions whose ends are fixed along a secant of said circular seat; and

a hydraulic unit located under said launcher and attached to said circular seat, said hydraulic unit for controlling the elevation of the launcher with respect to said circular seat.

14. (New) The defense system according to claim 13, further comprising a hinge pin integral to said cupola to which said launcher is pivotally attached.

15. (New) The defense system according to claim 14, wherein said hydraulic unit comprises a jack and a jack rod, said jack attached to said circular seat and said rod attached to said launcher.

16. (New) The defense system according to claim 15, further comprising a lever having two ends, said lever attached at one end to the rear part of said launcher, the other end of said lever attached to said rod, said lever being pivotally attached to said hinge pin between the two ends of said lever.

17. (New) The defense system according to claim 15, wherein said jack rod is parallel to a plane of rotation of said cupola when said launcher is at zero elevation.

18. (New) The defense system according to claim 16, wherein said launcher may be elevated 10 degrees below horizontal and 70 degrees above horizontal.

19. (New) The defense system according to claim 13, wherein said cupola is rotated with a rack and pinion assembly.

20. (New) The defense system of claim 19, wherein said pinion is integral with said cupola.

21. (New) The defense system of claim 20, wherein said rack is attached to a double-acting jack whose piston is activated by a second hydraulic unit.

22. (New) The defense system according to claim 21, wherein said piston is substantially parallel to said cupola's plane of rotation.